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of the trustees of the Leland Stanford, Jr., University. Professor Ashburner was identified with all the principal organizations whose object is the intellectual development of the Pacific coast,—the microscopical, geographical, and historical societies,—and for many years he was especially active as one of the trustees of the California Academy of Sciences. In the directions above indicated he was an eminently useful citizen, and his personal bearing and qualities greatly endeared him to many. The death of such a man is a public misfortune.—*R. E. C. S., Washington, D. C., May 10, 1887.*

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

**Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.**—February 1, 1887.—Dr. Leidy stated that the prevalent opinion that bed-bugs might be introduced by bats and swallows seemed improbable. The insect found on the swallow is related to, yet different from, that which infests houses. On a couple of little bats from Panama Bay he had found an allied, yet different, insect, described by Westwood as *Polycenes fumarius*. Professor Heilprin stated that the rhizopods identified by Miss Fielde at Swatow as identical with Philadelphia forms were *Diffugia* (two species) and *Arcella vulgaris*. Dr. Koenig gave the analysis of two forms of asbestos from Franklin, N. J., which are distinguished from Sussexite by the absence of the green flame under the blow-pipe.

February 15.—Professor Ryder spoke of the distribution of papillæ giving rise to sensitive or tactile hairs. Such hairs are usually divided into groups, one of which occurs near the eyebrows, one below the eye, and a third lower down. The gray whale of the Pacific coast had more of these tactile hairs than any other cetacean the fœtus of which he had examined. He had recently observed in an embryo kitten an orderly linear arrangement of such hair-papillæ on the back, apparently corresponding to the color-stripes to be developed later. There were none on the limbs and sides. Dr. H. Allen said that he had noted that moles on the human face occupied the same positions as the sensitive hairs of the lower animals. Dr. Allen also stated that in the wombat the biceps muscle passes from the pelvis to the foot, receiving three other muscles before its insertion. He suggested a formula, consisting of the use of arrows in different positions, indicating origin, insertion, direction, etc., so as to save labor in recording details. Professor Heilprin put on record the stranding of a specimen of the Mediterranean Risso's grampus on the coast at Atlantic City. Professor Sharp suggested that the eyes of *Onchidium* were phosphorescent organs, similar to those he had before described as existing in

Pecten, especially since the snail has no locomotive powers which would enable it to escape from a foe seen by such eyes.

March 15.—A couple of copper coins, taken from the stomach of an ostrich which recently died in the Zoological Garden, were exhibited by Mr. E. A. Kelly. They formed part of a hard mass, which partly filled the gizzard. It was evident from the condition of the bolus that the muscular fibres of the stomach had not kept up such a spiral movement as is found in the crop of the pigeon or the stomach of the cow.

New York Academy of Sciences.—April 4, 1887.—Dr. Henry H. Rusby read some notes of recent travel on a journey from La Paz to Para through the Bolivian Andes and the Beni and Madeira Rivers.

April 18.—Dr. Alexis A. Julien read a paper on the transformations of iron disulphide, illustrating his points with specimens.

May 2.—Dr. Henry H. Rusby read a paper in continuation of that of April 4, on his travels across South America.

May 9.—Mr. George F. Kunz presented a paper on jade and jadite, and also read a description of the meteorite which fell March 27, 1886, near Cabin Creek, Johnson County, Ark.

Biological Society of Washington.—April 16, 1887.—Dr. William H. Dall presented some notes on a recent exploring trip to Florida. Dr. H. G. Beyer spoke of the action of caffeine upon the kidneys. Dr. C. H. Merriam referred to the depredations of the bobolink, or rice-bird, in the rice-fields of the South. Mr. F. A. Lucas presented some notes on the os prominens in birds.

Middlesex Institute.—May 11, 1887.—Mr. Sylvester Baxter read a paper descriptive of his second visit to Zuñi, describing one of the dances. Mr. Clarence Pullen made some remarks upon the various Pueblo Indians.

Essex Institute.—May 16, 1887.—Annual meeting. The following officers were elected: President, Henry Wheatland; Vice-Presidents, A. C. Goodell, Jr., F. W. Putnam, D. B. Hagar, and Robert S. Rantoul; Secretary, George M. Whipple; Treasurer, George D. Phippen; Librarian, William P. Upham. The annual reports which were read show a very substantial prosperity on the part of this institution. The ordinary income was five thousand two hundred and five dollars and eighteen cents, while two bequests amounted to fourteen thousand dollars. The total property in funds and real estate amount to (at original values) over seventy thousand dollars. The additions to the library for the year amounted to twenty thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine volumes and pamphlets, and the library is now estimated to contain fifty thousand volumes and over two hundred thousand parts of volumes and pamphlets. The Institute exchanges with over two hundred kindred societies, over half of which are foreign.